

Seattle City Council

Public Safety Civil Rights and Arts Committee

Tuesday, 2 PM, March 16th, 2004

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Terrilynn Townes**

Today's Words' Worth poet is **Dr. Peter Pereira**

Peter Pereira is a family physician in Seattle and a founding editor of Floating Bridge Press. He received his MD from the University of Washington in 1987 and completed his residency in Family Medicine at the University of Washington Medical Center in 1990. He currently provides primary care to an urban poor population at High Point Community Clinic, in West Seattle. His book of poetry, *Saying the World*, won the 2002 Hayden Carruth award from Copper Canyon Press.

THE WINEPRESS

In this day of serial monogamy
and microwave cuisine, when baking anything
has become a lost art
and writing letters
is akin to making lace
by hand, our neighbors give us a winepress.

We have a small grape arbor, bursting
with sweet grapes each summer;
and we like wine; so we scour the used
bookstore and sit up late one night
perusing an illustrated manual
as if it were a Kama sutra.

Crushers and carboys, air locks
and siphons, sulfite, a suitable
wine yeast: we'll need a lot more
than deire and a press

to make our first wine happen.
I close the book and turn
to the window, where old canes
are just beginning
their yearly return to life.

We may only get fuel oil
or vinegar. That won't matter.
This need not make sense
to have meaning.